

**Covenant University**  
**College of Development Studies**  
**School of Social Sciences**  
**Ota, Ogun State.**

**Department of Political Science and International Relations**

**Programme: Political Science, International Relations and Policy & Strategic Studies**

**Course code: IRL 121**

**Course Title: Ancestor/Evolution of Contemporary International System**

**Units: 2 units**

**Course Lecturer: Miss Popoola. O. Rosemary, Mrs D. O. Udoh**

**Semester: 2013/2014 Omega Semester**

**Time:**

**Location:**

**Office No and Extension:**

**Brief review of the course**

The Contemporary International Political System has background in ancient and medieval political system of Europe, Asia and Africa, which both organised and brought political entities together by conquest. This course introduces the students of International Relations to those socio-political organisations and institutions of the distant past that has shaped the present or contemporary international system. The lectures will discuss the concept and nature of international system, emergence of international system as exemplified by the Greek city-state, Italian City-State System, Chinese Empire, Roman-Byzantium Empire, Medieval System and National System which saw to the demise of the Holy Roman Empire and the effective take-off of the present international system. The discussions will show the similarities and disparities in the old and new “system”.

**Course Objectives/Goals**

After the series of intensive class distinction and teaching, the students are expected to know the following:

- ❖ Meaning and nature of Contemporary International System
- ❖ The “Ancestors” of the present international system
- ❖ Roots of the current global structure and behaviour

**Method of Lecture Delivery/Teaching Aids**

Use of multimedia projector

Intensive Class Distinction

Excursions (as the case may be)

## Course Outlines

### ***Module 1***

- ❖ Week 1  
Introduction of the Course: Conceptual Clarifications/Meaning and Scope of Course
- ❖ Week 2  
Nature of International Systems
- ❖ Week 3  
Antiquity- The Greek City-State System

### ***Module II***

- ❖ Week 4  
Political System of the Chou Dynasty in China
- ❖ Week 5

### **MID-SEMESTER TEST**

- ❖ Week 6  
Feudal organisation and decentralization of power
- ❖ Week 7  
Drive toward universalism - The Western Roman Empire and Byzantium  
- Holy Roman Empire

### ***Module III***

- ❖ Week 8  
Emergence of Strong Kings and the Thirty Years War
- ❖ Week 9  
Political System of Renaissance Italy
- ❖ Week 10  
Collapse of Holy Roman Empire and Treaty of Westphalia

### ***Module IV***

- ❖ Week 11  
Antecedents of International Organisations
- ❖ Week 12  
The Colonial System
- ❖ Week 13  
Overview- Contemporary system and the Old: Comparative analysis

### **Structure of the Programme/Method of Grading**

*Attendance: 5 marks*

*Class Test[s]: 10 marks*

*Mid-semester Test: 15 marks*

*Total Continuous Assessment Marks: 30%*

*End of Semester Examination: 70%*

**Total score: 100%**

## **Ground Rules & Regulations**

There will be two hours of lectures every week. Attendance to lectures is compulsory for all registered students and a basic requirement for qualification to write exams.

**NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO MAKE-UP TEST OR ASSIGNMENT AT ANY GIVEN POINT. YOU ARE THEREFORE ADVISED TO MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE FOR ALL FORMS OF EXAMINATIONS.**

### **Topic for term paper assignment**

The topic for the term paper will be decided as the lectures proceed. It is expected that they will evolve naturally from the class discussions and debates. The students will be given three weeks to develop the term paper and consequently submit for assessment.

### **Alignment with covenant university core values**

This course fundamentally introduces students to a basic understanding of the ancient state system that helped to shape contemporary state system. It is important in aiding capacity building process of the student in the field of international relations, because their understanding of the foundation of the current state interactive processes is rooted in the grasp of the old state interactive processes.

### **Contemporary issues/Industry Relevance**

A careful study and analysis of the ancient state system and a stable system and stable organisation of government will impact upon the policy regime of contemporary government will impact upon the lives of the citizen, thus fulfilling the ultimate aim of the original idea behind social contract.

## **Recommended Reading**

- ❖ Adeniran, T (1982) *Introduction to International Relations* (Lagos: Macmillan)
- ❖ Dunne, T. et al (2002) *'Empires, Systems and State: Great Transformation' in International Politics*
- ❖ Goldstein, J.S. (2006) *International Relations, Fifth edition* (New York: Longman)
- ❖ Henderson, C.W. (1998) *International Relations: Conflict and Cooperation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (Boston: McGraw-Hill)
- ❖ Holsti, K.J. (1967) *International politics* (New Jersey: Prentice-Hall)
- ❖ Lamborn, Alan(ed) *World Politics into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Unique Context, Enduring Patterns*
- ❖ Morgenthau, H (1978) *Politics Among Nations: Struggle for Power and Peace, 5<sup>th</sup> edition* (New York: Alfred Knopf)
- ❖ Rosenbaum, N. (2002) *Readings on International Political System*
- ❖ Ojo, O. and Sesay (2002) *Concept in International Relations* (Ife: OAU Press)
- ❖ Viotti, P. and Kauppi (2001) *International Relations and World Politics* (New Jersey: Prentice- Hall)